



A colony of native trout lily in a Steep Rock preserve

## **Old Friends**

Like most people, I eagerly await the arrival of Spring. Longer days, warmer temperatures, and opportunities to get outside are attractive. But the main draw for me is the chance to catch up with old friends that grace us with their presence once a year. These are spring ephemerals—plants and animals that emerge early from winter dormancy, provide a vibrant burst of color and song, and then retreat as trees leaf out, vernal pools dry up, and the season transitions to summer. The woodlands in Steep Rock's preserves offer an abundance of beautiful native wildflowers, keenly adapted to the various habitats and soil conditions provided by our forests. The chorus of wood frogs, spring peepers, and birdlife present a veritable

symphony to accompany your walks. As Spring unfurls, I invite you to stretch your legs, join with friends, and meet new ones as you discover the natural wonders and beauty in Steep Rock's preserves. As a reminder, please take only photos and leave our wildflowers for others to enjoy in future springs. See you on our trails...

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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### **Timberdoodling - A Family Workshop**

Join us Friday, April 12, 2024 for a fun, family activity at Macricostas Preserve, spending a spring night marveling at the eccentric woodcock (also called the timberdoodle). We'll watch these chunky birds erupt into aerial breeding displays and sneak up to their position under the cover of dusk. Participants are encouraged to wear warm, long-sleeved clothing and bring a headlamp. Inclement weather will postpone the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult and registration is required. Space is limited to 20 participants. For info [\[more\]](#)

### **Speaker Series Focuses Pollinator Pathways**

In our fourth and final installation of our Speaker Series, John Markelon, President of the [Litchfield Land Trust](#), will share how to “Establish Pollinator Pathways in Your Backyard.” Each presentation is free and open to the public and will be presented over Zoom. [\[more\]](#)

## "Give Local" April 24-25: Protect What You Love

**Mark your calendar!** Join our Board and staff in supporting Steep Rock on **April 24-25** for [Give Local](#)—Connecticut Community Foundation's 36-hour online event that raises money and awareness for nonprofits in the Litchfield Hills. **Your gift to Steep Rock will be matched dollar for dollar** up to \$25,000 thanks to our generous sponsors! Like perennials, your investment will make a difference year after year protecting forests and wildlife, connecting our community to nature, ensuring equitable access to food, and helping all of us live healthier, happier lives.

## Earth Day Roadside Clean Up

Help us take care of our local environment by contributing to the [Washington Environmental Council](#)'s Roadside Clean-Up. Join SRA staff to clean up the roads around Macricostas Preserve on Thursday, April 18 - or choose your own area of Washington to clean up [\[more\]](#)

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## Upcoming Events

**Thanks to our donors, we're able to offer all of these events at no cost!**

- **April 6 - [Judea Garden Spring Cleaning](#)** - Help us kick off our 16th by getting the Garden ready for the upcoming season. Ages 16+, under 16 accompanied by an adult.
- **April 12 - [Timberdoodling - A Family Workshop](#)** - Join us for a fun, family activity at Macricostas Preserve, spending a spring night marveling at the eccentric woodcock (also called the timberdoodle). This workshop is limited to 20 people. All ages.
- **April 13 - [Volunteer Trail Manager Training](#)** - Enjoy the outdoors? Have some time to share? Become a volunteer Trail Manager for and help care for some of our nearly 50 miles of hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails. Ages 16+.

- **April 18 - [Virtual Speaker Series - Establish Pollinator Pathways In Your Backyard](#)** - John Markelon, President of the [Litchfield Land Trust](#), will share how to “Establish Pollinator Pathways in Your Backyard.”
- **April 20 - [Monthly Trail Work Party](#)** - No experience necessary, just a willingness to get your hands dirty and have fun. Ages 16+.
- **April 21 - [Early Spring Planting Day at Judea Garden](#)** - Plant those cool weather plants and get a jump start on the season and harvesting. Ages 16+, under 16 accompanied by an adult.

### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
\*{{Organization Address}}\*  
\*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
\*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

